Power plants facing coal shortage

*214. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the position with regard to coal supplies at power station;

(b) at present how many critical stations and super critical stations where coal stock is less than seven days and four days respectively are there; and

(c) the plan Government have to meet the demand-supply gap of coal in power stations?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The status of coal supplies for power stations in 2004-05 (upto February, 2005) is given below:—

(in million tonnes)

	Linkage	Receipt	(-)Shortfall/ (+)Excess	Percentage (-)shortfall/(+)excess
Domestic	276.06	249.70	-26.36	-9.55
Import	1.79	3.94	+2.15	+120.11
TOTAL	277.85	253.64	-24.21	-8.17

(b) As on 14th March 2005, twenty two power stations are critical with less than seven days of coal stocks, of which ten are super-critical with less than four days coal stocks.

(c) Measures initiated to mitigate the demand—supply gap of coal in power stations are as under:—

1. Short Term

a. Import of coal by select power generation utilities; and

b. Increasing coal production in existing coal mines.

2. Medium and Long Term

a. Allotment of new coal blocks by Ministry of Coal to public power utilities under Government dispensation; and

b. Allotment of coal blocks by Ministry of Coal to power utilities for captive mining.

3. Monitoring at different levels in the Government of India:

a. Daily Monitoring by Ministry of Power on the basis of Management Information Systems (MIS) of Central Electricity Authority, and interactions among Secretary (Coal), Secretary (Power) and Chairman, Railway Board;

b. Monthly Review by Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat regarding infrastructure constraints including coal supplies to thermal power stations; and

c. Review by a sub-group headed by the Joint Secretary (Coal) about supply of coal to critical power stations having coal stocks of less than seven days.

New rural electricity infrastructure and household electrification scheme

*215. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved a new rural electricity infrastructure and household electrification scheme providing free single point connection to households below poverty line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Anew scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastruture and household electrification has been approved for the attainment of National Common Minimum Programme of completing Rural Household Electrification in five years.

(b) Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/habitations with distribution transformer(s) in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for villages/habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).